

A statement to be discussed between committee members.

- We have operated our service for close to three years. Within this time, we have established an outstanding service to Blackpool Council and its young people. We were recognised as 'Outstanding' on our last inspection in December 2020. We are immensely proud of the hard work we put in and our dedication to local young people.
- Unlike the vast majority of the planning applications for C2 use of a building — which tend to be from new providers/services — we are an already well-established service with a strong reputation.
- When we first began planning on opening our service in 2016, we sought advice from Blackpool about the potential need for C2 planning and we were told by Blackpool planning that we do not need it. Now we have been told we must have C2 planning permission but potentially can't have it due to the 400m rule. We would not have opened in the first place if we'd known beforehand that we would not have permission to operate. The opinion from the barrister in London states that we are similar to a children's home and therefore would fall foul of the 400m rule that was only identified in 2020, two years after we began operating.
- We would be happy to enter a section 106 agreement with the council. We already communicate with Blackpool Council's placements team regarding any referral from different local authorities, though this is rare such is our commitment to serve Blackpool Council and local young people.
- It would be impossible for us to have a viable running business with two or less young people placed in our service. In the event that we were ordered to close by enforcement (after our youngest current resident turns 18), we would therefore be restricted from accepting new referrals to replace outgoing residents. We would then have to move two potentially settled and happy residents to new placements so that the business could be closed which would not be in the best interests of the young people. I feel that the committee would agree that this would be a regrettable outcome due to the unnecessary upheaval to a vulnerable young person's life.
- The idea of moving our service to another property is impossible for us to do; the financial implications of selling our property in the current pandemic is simply not feasible. All of my life's savings have been put into this business, and we cannot afford to lose our home. I will be bankrupt and be faced with extreme debt in paying off a house that I cannot operate with.
- We have a team of 10 outstanding staff members. In the event of not being able to operate they will lose their jobs — in the current climate I do not want my valued staff members to be faced with redundancy and unemployment. People have been hit so hard with financial implications, but I ensured all my staff were kept in employment through lockdown to make sure our young people were supported through such difficult times.

- Residents' feedback

*I feel happy in my home. You have me given me so many opportunities and I am grateful for this. Without your support I wouldn't be the person I am today. Thank you.*

*The staff go above and beyond to make sure I am safe an happy. I have a room which is my own and which staff helped me furnish and make look really homely. I'm away from danger and staff help keep me on track with college. I like living at Coastal Key Housing*